

TREATMENT OF SCOTTISH HISTORY

191

oppressed and wasted these unhappy districts were the dragoons commanded by John Graham of Claverhouse.

The story ran that these wicked men used in their revels to play at the torments of hell, and to call each other by the names of devils and damned souls/ 'Vodro\v, however,

who is the authority cited, appears to attribute these diversions to Grierson of Lag and his men.² Macaulay

terms Claverhouse * the chief of this Tophet', though even Wodrow does not accuse him of taking part in the alleged revels.

Another famous figure amongst the persecutors was Sir George Mackenzie, Lord Advocate from 1674 to 1685. One of Scott's characters terms him 'the bloody advocate Mackenzie, who for his worldly wit and wisdom had been to the rest as a god/ Another calls him 'the man that has the blood of the saints at his fingers' ends J.

Lawyer, essayist, novelist, and historian, his accomplishments attracted the admiration of Mr. Andrew Lang, who came to the conclusion that the charges against him were not warranted by the facts, and that he was a much maligned man.³ But the vindication is by no means convincing.

Amongst the opponents of the government persecuted by Mackenzie was the ninth Earl of Argyle, who was

condemned for high treason in 1681 on a scandalously unjust accusation, but succeeded in escaping to Holland. In May 1685 he returned to Scotland, was made prisoner

¹1, 492 (iv). The charges against Dundee are examined in detail in chapter xi.

- See Col. Alexander Ferguson, *The Laird of Lag : A Life Sketch* (1886).

⁸ Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate, of Rosehaugh : His Life and Times (1909). The account of Mackenzie's career and character given in Mr. G. W. T. Omond's *Lord Advocates of Scotland* (1883), i. 200-34, appears to be substantially just.